MARVEL COMICS
QUASAR
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UK 95p
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STARBLAST
CROSSOVER
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SKELETRON, QUASAR CONTINUES TO ELUDE US!
WHEN WE DO CAPTURE HIM, INSIDIO, HIS DEATH WILL HAVE BEEN WORTH THE WAIT!
DIRECT EDITION
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KIEBANK

AW, MAN, I'M TERMINALLY LATE! I JUST KNOW IT THEY'LL PROB'LY START WITHOUT ME.
IS IT MY FAULT I TOOK A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE OVER TENNESSEE? COURSE NOT! I TOLD NIGHTY I NEEDED DIRECTIONS!
YEAH, AN' I'LL BET NONE OF THE OTHER DUDES HE PUT OUT THE CALL TO HAD TO TRAVEL AS FAR AS I DID!
HEY-- I WONDER IF ANY 'O' MY BUDS FROM THE OL' PARAVORMAL PLATOON WILL BE THERE...
NIGHTMASK SAID HE WAS GETTIN' ALL THE HEAVIEST PLAYERS HE COULD SCROUNGE, AND THE FIGHTIN' FORCE THAT WON THE WAR CERTAINLY ARE CONTENDERS!
HEY, THAT BARN AHEAD-- I THINK THAT'S THE PLACE!

WENDELL VAUGHN... THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

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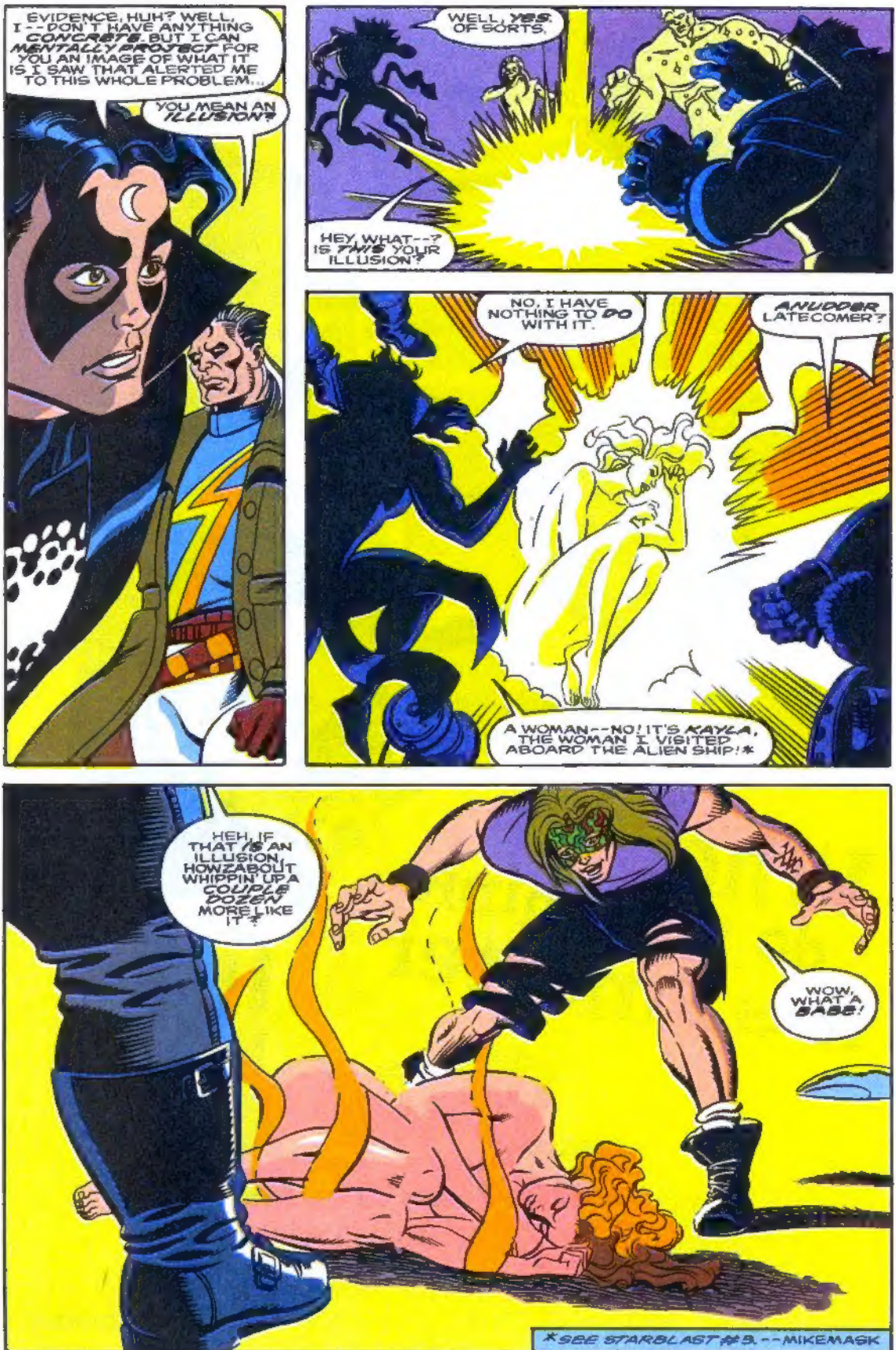
NUKE ME WITH THE NEW

GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US, METALLURGE! WE WERE ABOUT TO START WITHOUT YOU, BUT PSI-HAWK THERE SENSED YOU WERE IN THE VICINITY.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. DID I MISS ALL THE INTROS?
YES. I'LL RUN THROUGH THEM AGAIN. STARTING ON MY LEFT IS THE MANHUNTER KNOWN AS JUSTICE.
FROM WASHINGTON DC, WE HAVE BOTH THE EVER-OMINOUS OVERSHADOW, AND THE FORMER GRIDIRON GREAT, THE ALL-AMERICAN.

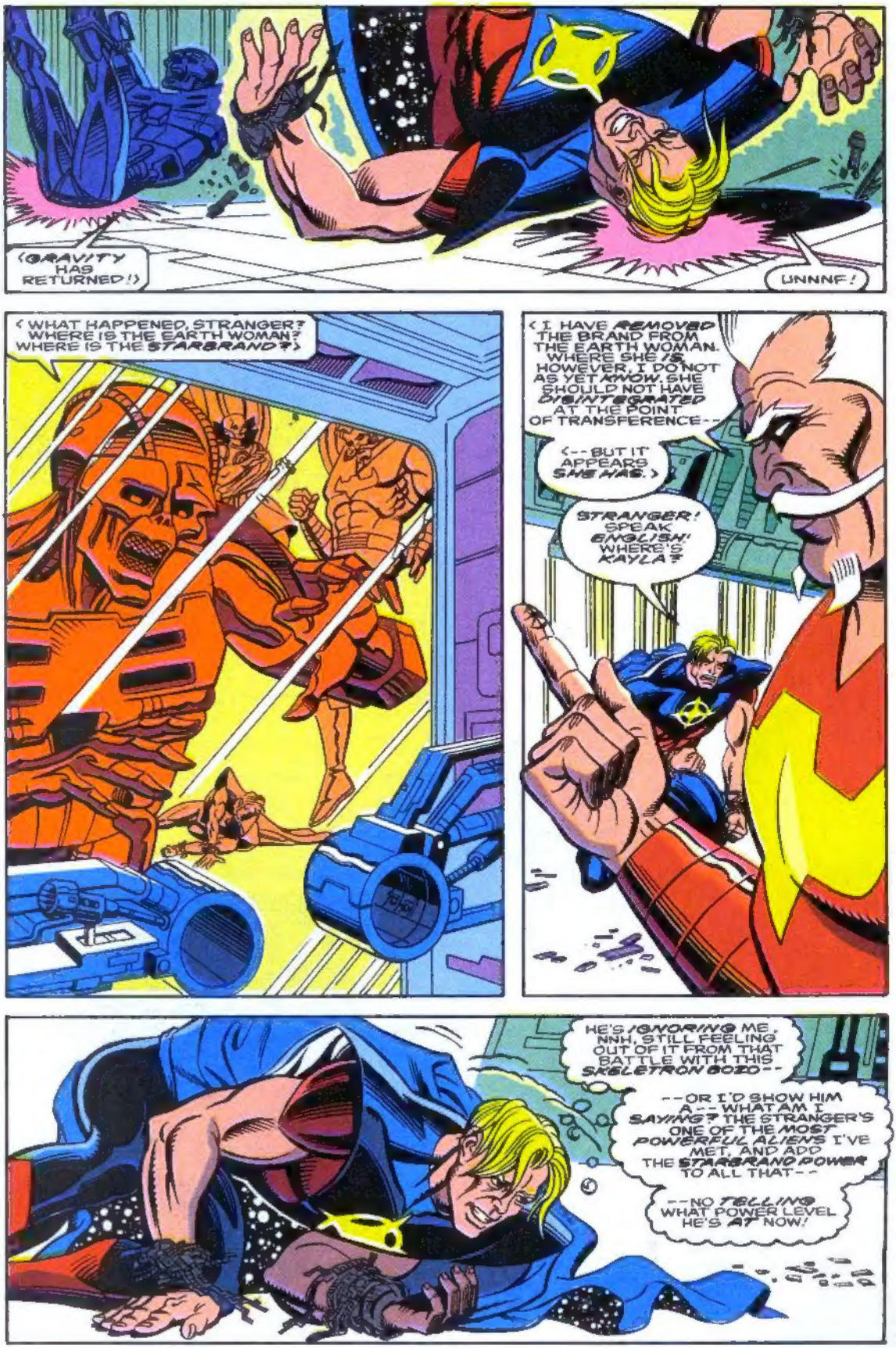
MARK GRUENWALD • WRITER
JOHN HEEBINK • BREAKDOWN ARTIST
AARON McCLELLAN • FINISHES
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER

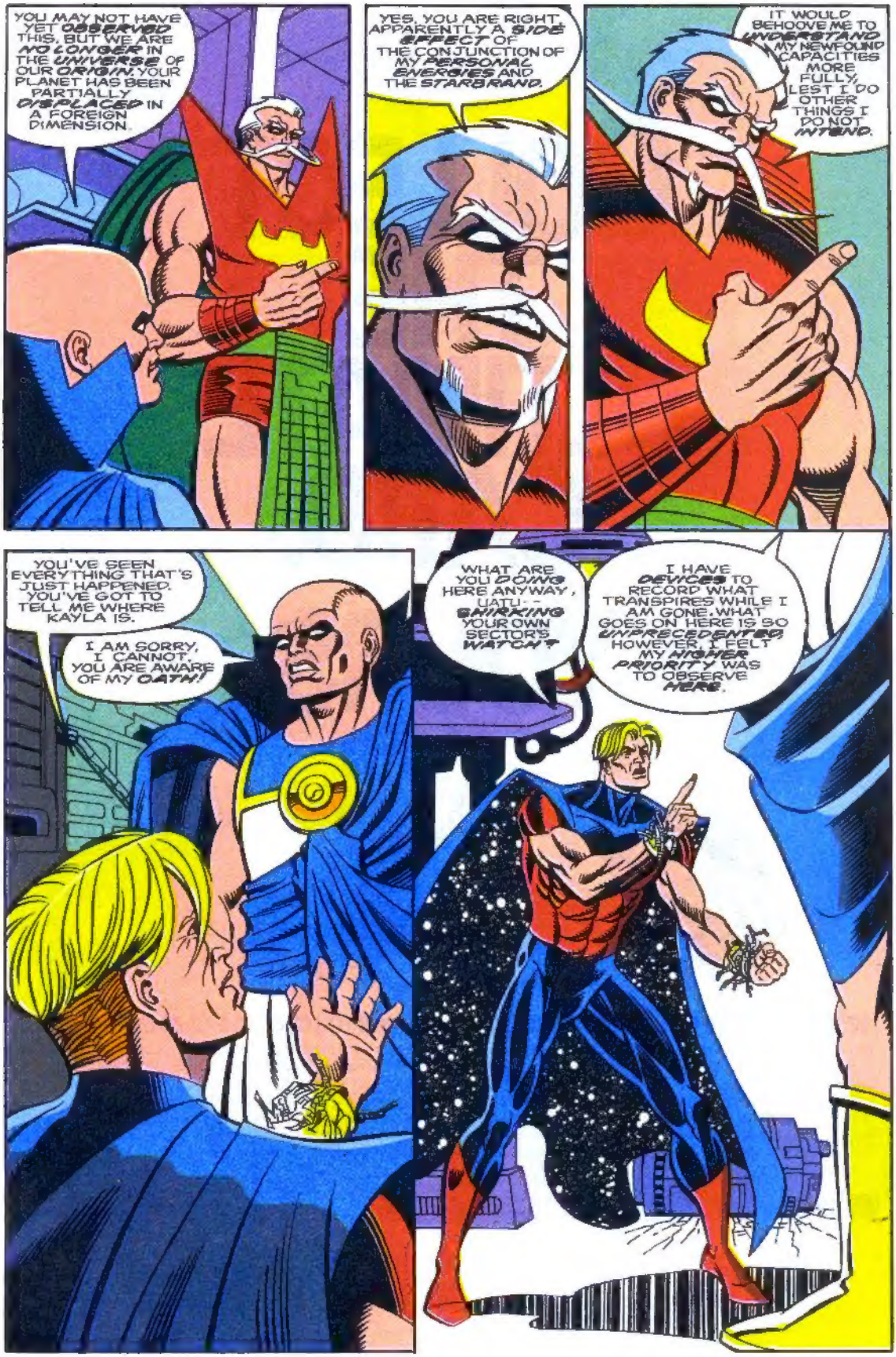
FROM NEW YORK CITY, WE HAVE THOSE CHAMPIONS OF SMOGTOWN... CHROME AND CAPTAIN MANHATTAN.
FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTHWEST... THE ENIGMATIC PSI-HAWK.
AND FINALLY, FROM THE WILDS OF PENNSYLVANIA PIT BULL!
THE PUNK WELL BETTER REMEMBER ME!
PAUL BECTON • COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ • EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO • GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO • MR. MAGNIFICENT

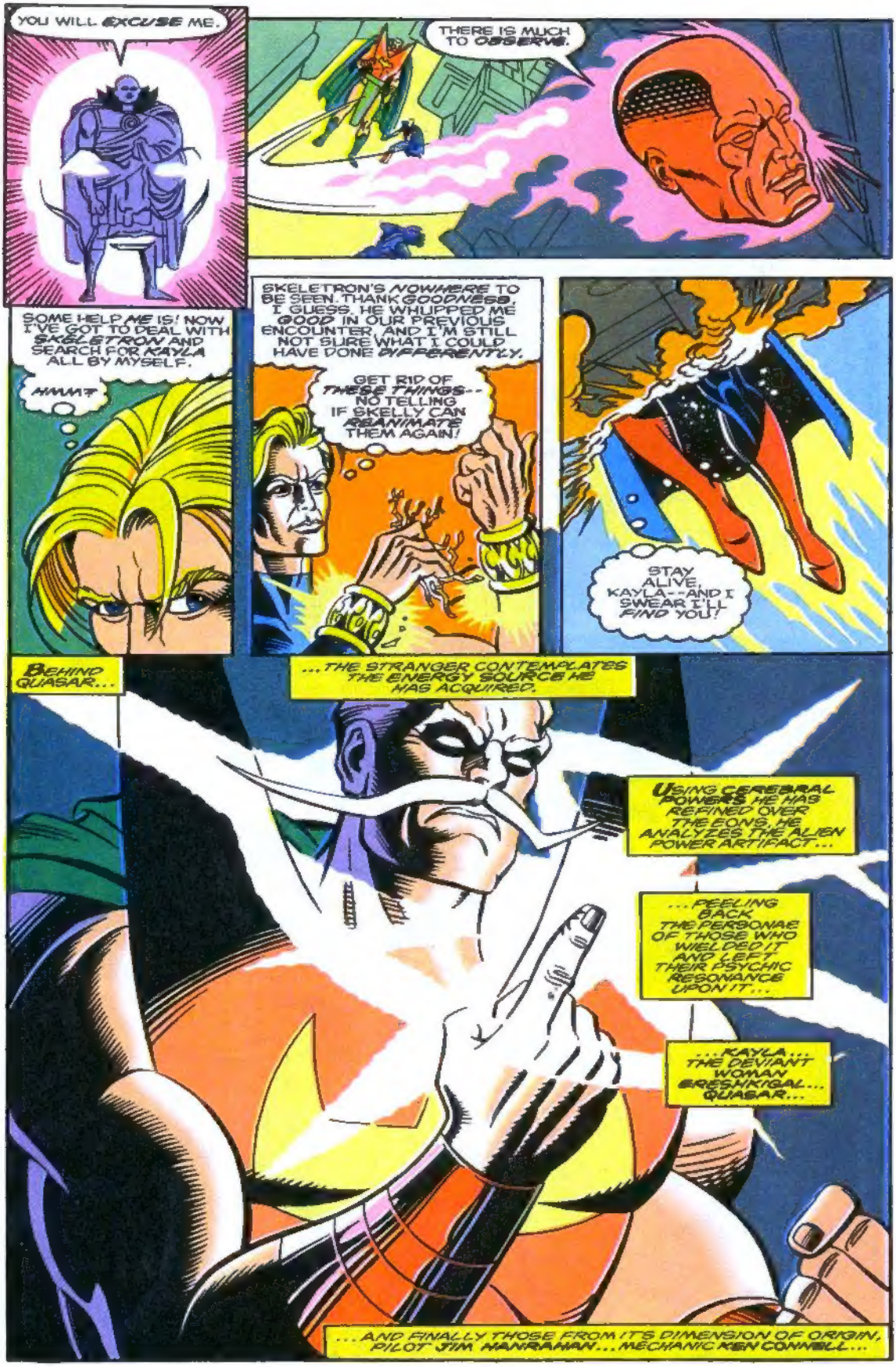
OKAY, I LURED YOU ALL HERE WITH THE PROMISE I'D LET YOU IN ON SOMETHING BIG. HERE'S THE SCOOP... THIS WORLD OF OURS IS IN DANGER...
...ON A SCALE THAT WILL MAKE THE PITTSBURGH DISASTER SEEM LIKE A MINOR INCIDENT.
HEH HEH. WHO'RE WE IN DANGER FROM? YER TAILOR?
NO, FROM BEINGS WHO COME FROM BEYOND THIS UNIVERSE... BEINGS WHOSE POWERS MAY JUST MAKE OURS LOOK PATHETIC... BEINGS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF CAUSING VAST DESTRUCTION TO GET WHAT THEY WANT--
--THE SOURCE OF OUR PARABILITIES!
WHATCHU TALKIN' ABOUT, KID? LITTLE GREEN MEN FROM SPACE? HAW!
EVER SINCE THE WHITE EVENT, OUR WORLD'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF WEIRDNESS, BUT... ALIENS...?
I, TOO, HAVE SENSED SOME ETHEREAL DISTURBANCE UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED. PERHAPS IT IS SOMETHING EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL.
IT IS! I'VE BEEN THEM--!
YOU KNOW, ABOUT A YEAR AGO, CHROME AND I MET A MAN WHO SAID HE WAS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE. HE LOOKED QUITE HUMAN. BUT--
I WOULD NEED MORE EVIDENCE THAN THE DREAMS OF A PHANTASMAL MENTAL PATIENT.


EVIDENCE, HUH? WELL, I--DON'T HAVE ANYTHING CONCRETE. BUT I CAN MENTALLY PROJECT FOR YOU AN IMAGE OF WHAT IT IS I SAW THAT ALERTED ME TO THIS WHOLE PROBLEM...
YOU MEAN AN ILLUSION?
WELL, YES. OF SORTS.
HEY, WHAT--? IS THIS YOUR ILLUSION?
NO, I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
ANUDDER LATECOMER?
A WOMAN--NO! IT'S KAYLA, THE WOMAN I VISITED ABOARD THE ALIEN SHIP!*
HEH, IF THAT IS AN ILLUSION, HOWZABOUT WHIPPIN' UP A COUPLE DOZEN MORE LIKE IT?
WOW, WHAT A BABE!
*SEE STARBLAST #3. --MIKEMASK

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY, THERE IS AN UNPRECEDENTED ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENON...
...A BRILLIANT LIGHT WHERE SECONDS AGO THERE HAD BEEN BUT A FEW MOTES OF COSMIC DUST...
AND AS THE LIGHT PROPAGATES ACROSS SPACE, ITS SOURCE GROWS DIMMER...
...REVEALING A CHUNK OF PLANETARY MATTER A TENTH THE SIZE OF JUPITER THAT HAS PARTIALLY MATERIALIZED IN THIS UNIVERSE...
IT IS A PIECE OF REAL ESTATE WHICH FOR EONS HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE COSMIC SCIENTIST, THE STRANGER...
...WHO CURRENTLY PLAYS HOST TO SKELETRON OF THE STARBLASTERS...
...AND THE EARTHBORN PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE, QUASAR...
...THE WATCHER OF A SPACE SECTOR FAR AWAY...
(YOUR WORLD, STRANGER -- SOMETHING INEXPLICABLE IS HAPPENING TO IT!)
(MY, YOU ARE OBSERVANT!)


(GRAVITY HAS RETURNED!)
UNNNF!
(WHAT HAPPENED, STRANGER? WHERE IS THE EARTH WOMAN? WHERE IS THE STARBRAND?)
(I HAVE REMOVED THE BRAND FROM THE EARTH WOMAN. WHERE SHE IS, HOWEVER, I DO NOT AS YET KNOW. SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE DISINTEGRATED AT THE POINT OF TRANSFERENCE--
(--BUT IT APPEARS SHE HAS.)
STRANGER! SPEAK ENGLISH! WHERE'S KAYLA?
HE'S IGNORING ME. NNH. STILL FEELING OUT OF IT FROM THAT BATTLE WITH THIS SKELETRON BOZO--
--OR I'D SHOW HIM A-- WHAT AM I SAYING? THE STRANGER'S ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ALIENS I'VE MET, AND ADD THE STARBRAND POWER TO ALL THAT--
--NO TELLING WHAT POWER LEVEL HE'S AT NOW!


YOU MAY NOT HAVE YET OBSERVED THIS, BUT WE ARE NO LONGER IN THE UNIVERSE OF OUR ORIGIN. YOUR PLANET HAS BEEN PARTIALLY DISPLACED IN A FOREIGN DIMENSION.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT. APPARENTLY A SIDE EFFECT OF THE CONJUNCTION OF MY PERSONAL ENERGIES AND THE STARBRAND.
IT WOULD BEHOOVE ME TO UNDERSTAND MY NEWFOUND CAPACITIES MORE FULLY, LEST I DO OTHER THINGS I DO NOT INTEND.
YOU'VE SEEN EVERYTHING THAT'S JUST HAPPENED. YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME WHERE KAYLA IS.
I AM SORRY, I CANNOT. YOU ARE AWARE OF MY OATH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY, UATU - SNEAKING YOUR OWN SECTOR'S WATCH?
I HAVE DEVICES TO RECORD WHAT TRANSPIRES WHILE I AM GONE. WHAT GOES ON HERE IS SO UNPRECEDENTED HOWEVER, I FELT MY ANOTHER PRIORITY WAS TO OBSERVE HERE.


YOU WILL EXCUSE ME.
THERE IS MUCH TO OBSERVE.
SOME HELP ME IS! NOW I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH SKELETRON AND SEARCH FOR KAYLA ALL BY MYSELF.
HMMM?
SKELETRON'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. THANK GOODNESS, I GUESS. HE WHUPPED ME GOOD IN OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER, AND I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT I COULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY.
GET RID OF THESE THINGS-- NO TELLING IF SKELLY CAN REANIMATE THEM AGAIN!
STAY ALIVE, KAYLA--AND I SWEAR I'LL FIND YOU!
BEHIND QUASAR...
...THE STRANGER CONTEMPLATES THE ENERGY SOURCE HE HAS ACQUIRED.
USING CEREBRAL POWERS HE HAS REFINED OVER THE EONS, HE ANALYZES THE ALIEN POWER ARTIFACT...
...PEELING BACK THE PERSONAE OF THOSE WHO WIELDED IT AND LEFT THEIR PSYCHIC RESONANCE UPON IT...
...KAYLA... THE DEVIANT WOMAN ERESHKIGAL... QUASAR...
...AND FINALLY THOSE FROM ITS DIMENSION OF ORIGIN, PILOT JIM MANRAHAN... MECHANIC KEN CONNELL...

ELSEWHERE, SKELETRON RACES THROUGH THE STRANGER'S CITADEL TOWARD HIS DOCKED STARSHIP...
<NYGORN'>
<SKELETRON! I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING THE PREMISES FOR YOU! FABRIKANT TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE IN NEED OF MY ASSISTANCE!*>
<WHAT WAS THAT BIZARRE AMBIENT RADIANCE THAT CAUSED THE WORLD TO SEEM TO QUAKE?>
<WHEN THE STRANGER EXTRACTED THE STARBRAND, IT APPARENTLY INTERACTED WITH THE STRANGER'S OWN ENERGIES IN SUCH A WAY--
<--THAT IT CAUSED THIS PLANET TO DIRECTLY INTERPHASE WITH THE DIMENSION OF THE STARBRAND'S ORIGIN!
*IN STARBLAST #3. - MIKEBLAST
AHEAD IN THE SECTION OF THE STARBLASTERS' SHIP USED BY THE NEFARIOUS INSIDIO...
<SIX EARTHERS AND THREE SHI'AR - ALL BOUND AND READY TO REVEAL THEIR BODILY SECRETS TO ME---!>
<WITH SUCH A PRIZE CATCH, SKELETRON IS CERTAIN TO FORGIVE ME FOR BEING UNABLE TO RESTRAIN THAT WATCHER!>
MIKHAIL---! DEAR GOD, IF THIS BUTCHER DESECRATES YOU, I WILL KILL HIM EVEN AS I DID THAT FIEND WHO MURDERED YOU!

‹YOU HAVE GROWN IN SIZE. ANOTHER SIDE EFFECT OF THE STRANGER'S ACQUISITION?›
‹DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS, NYGORN? WE ARE IN ANOTHER MULTIVERSE-- A REALM WHERE NONE SUCH AS OURSELVES HAVE EVER BEEN!›
‹NO, TO VANQUISH THAT MEDDLESOME QUASAR, I WAS OBLIGED TO RETROFIT MYSELF.›
‹THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO BEING NON-ORGANIC.›
‹WHO KNOWS WHAT WONDERS WE SHALL FIND RIPE FOR THE PLUCKING, EH?›
‹FIRST I WILL DISSECT THIS CADAVER. I'VE LONG BEEN CURIOUS TO LEARN HOW THANEKER LEACHES LIFE ENERGIES FROM ORGANISMS.›

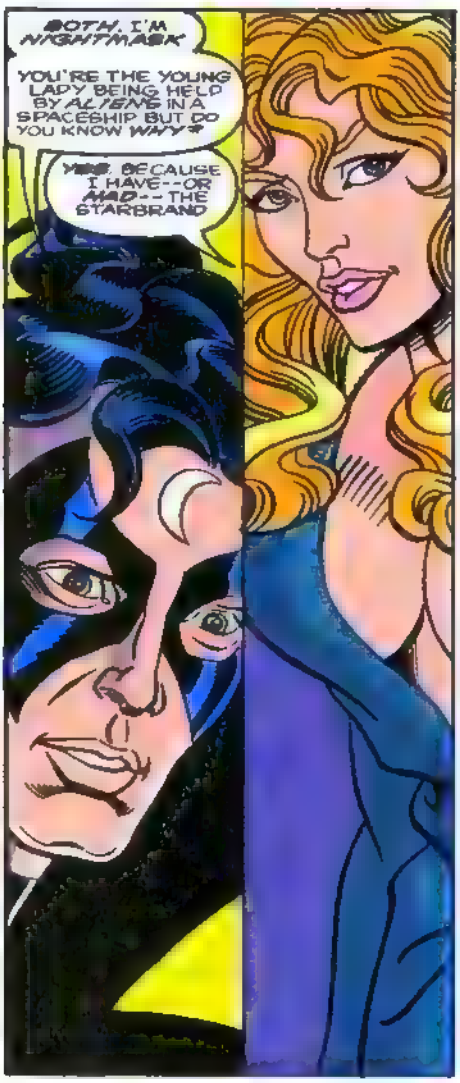
(INSIDIO!)
(SKELETRON. ?)
(I DID NOT GRANT YOU PERMISSION TO TAKE MORE PRISONERS! THEY ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO LET LIVE!)
(I WANT THEM ALL KILLED AT ONCE! I WILL BE THERE WITHIN FIVE CICS AND I WANT THEM DEAD BY THEN!)
(OH, PRIME ONE, HOW YOU DEPRIVE ME!)
(NRRRH. VERY WELL.)
(HE KNOWS HOW I ENJOY MAKING DEATH AS EXCRUCIATINGLY SLOW AS POSSIBLE.)
(HE DOES THIS TO PUNISH ME.)
VREEEEE
(I WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO TAKE WHAT SATISFACTION I CAN FROM SWIFT, UNEXAMINED DEATHS!)
VRSSSH
MERE INSTANTS TOO LATE TO SAVE IKARIS, BLACK BOLT-- THE MUTE MONARCH OF THE INHUMANS [illegible]S INTO THE CHAMBER VIA HIS SPACE-HURDLING DOG LOCKJAW...
(WHO IN--? NHEEEEP!)

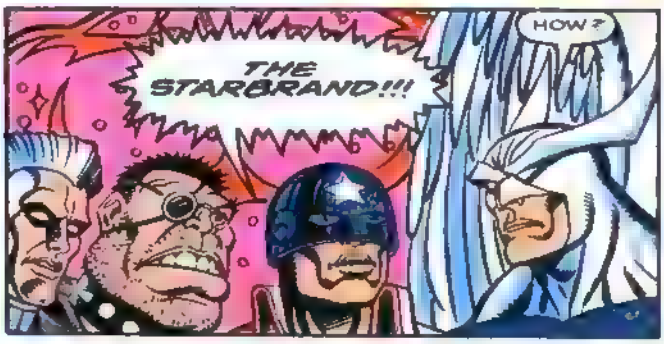
THUBB
RRRRRG
NNNNNH?
BLACK BOLT KNEELS BEFORE IKARIS AND SWIFTLY WEAVES AN ELECTRON COCOON AROUND HIS COMRADE'S TWO CLEFT BODY HALVES.
--EVEN AS THE SOUND OF THE SCUFFLE DRAWS INSIDIO'S FELLOW STARBLASTERS--
(THE FARTHERS ARE ESCAPING!)
LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU BOYS ARE WITHOUT WEAPONS!

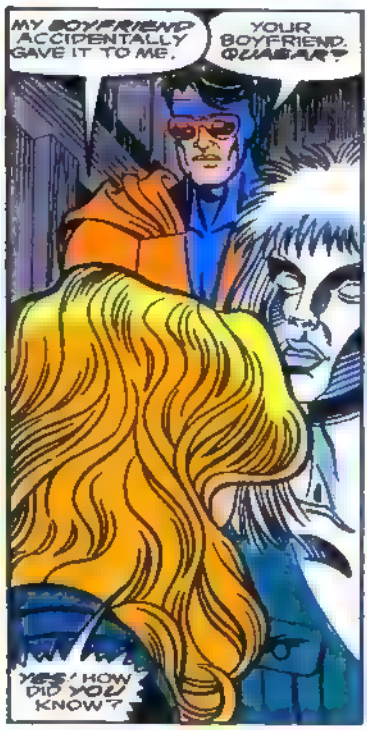
HANG ON, MONICA! I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A SEC!
<CODABAC! GET HER BEFORE SHE -->
I WISH YOU JERKS WOULD SPEAK ENGLISH LIKE MOST ALIENS DO!
OOOOF!
OKAY--THAT I UNDERSTOOD!
CAROL WRECKED THE MIND-JAMMING CONTROLS PREVENTING ME FROM TRIGGERING MY POWERS--
--NOW I CAN DO THE REST!
SEE IF I CAN FREE THE RUSSIAN THUNDER GOD--
UZRAK
- THEN BETTER GIVE CAROL SOME AIR SUPPORT!
THUG
WOW! HAVEN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TROT OUT MY CIA TRAINING IN YEARS.

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE NEW UNIVERSE...
FOR EONS I HAVE STOOD ON A MOON VERY SIMILAR TO THIS ONE, OBSERVING THE PHENOMENA OF [illegible] VERY MUCH LIKE THIS.
LONG HAVE I WONDERED IF THERE WERE NOT UNIVERSES SO UNIMAGINABLY DISTANT THAT THERE WERE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN THE STRUCTURE OF COSMOLOGY ITSELF.
TODAY I STAND IN SUCH A UNIVERSE, HAVING UNDERTAKEN RIGOROUS MACHINATIONS TO GET HERE...
THERE'S THE WATCHER, PROBABLY COMPOSING ANOTHER MONOLOG, I'LL BET.
...AND I FIND MYSELF MORE STIMULATED THAN I HAVE BEEN IN COUNTLESS CENTURIES. EACH OF MY SEVEN SENSES IS FULLY ENGAGED PROCESSING RAW NEW SENSORY INPUT...
...WHILE FROM ALL OUTSIDE APPEARANCES I STAND HERE IN PLACID, IMPASSIVE SILENCE.
YOU HAVE FOLLOWED ME.
YEP.
SHE'S DOWN THERE, ISN'T SHE?
YES.
THANKS.
WOULD THAT I COULD TELL HIM MORE. FOR IF WHAT I SUSPECT MUST COME TO PASS INDEED TRANSPIRES...

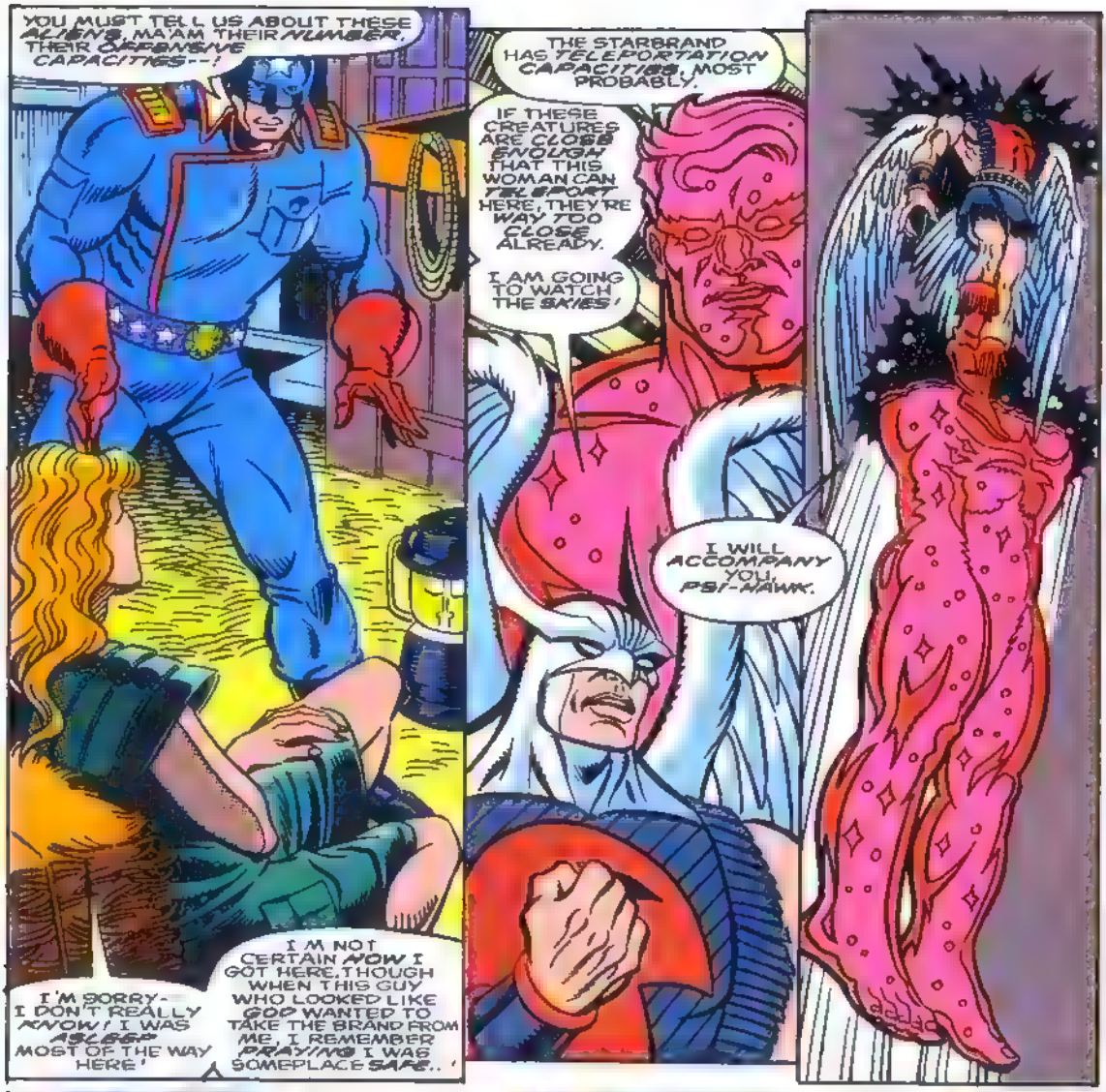
BELOW...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I GUESS SO. WHERE AM I?
EARTH
YOU -- I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE OR WAS I DREAMING?

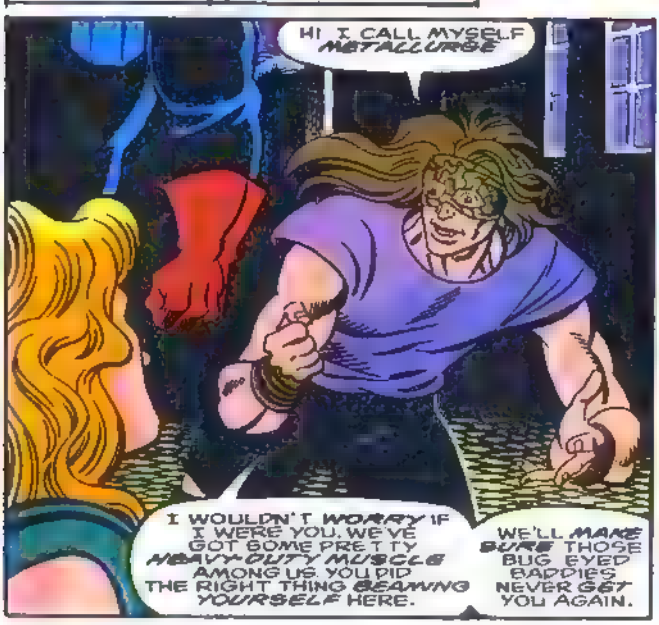

BOTH. I'M NIGHTMASK
YOU'RE THE YOUNG LADY BEING HELP BY ALIENS IN A SPACESHIP BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY?
YES. BECAUSE I HAVE--OR MAD--THE STARBRAND

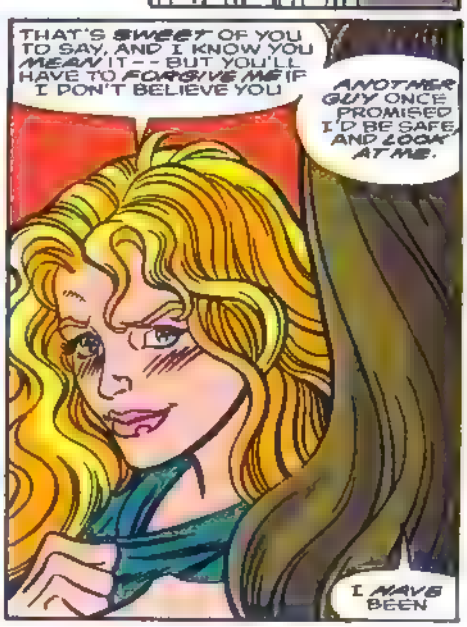

THE STARBRAND!!!
HOW?


MY BOYFRIEND ACCIDENTALLY GAVE IT TO ME.
YOUR BOYFRIEND, QUASAR?
YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW?

THE NAME'S CAPTAIN MANHATTAN, MA'AM. CHROMA AND I MET QUASAR WHEN HE FELL TO EARTH *
WE WERE THE ONES WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT THE STARBRAND, UNFORTUNATELY.
*IN THE CULT CLASSIC QUASAR #31 -- CLASSIC ROCK

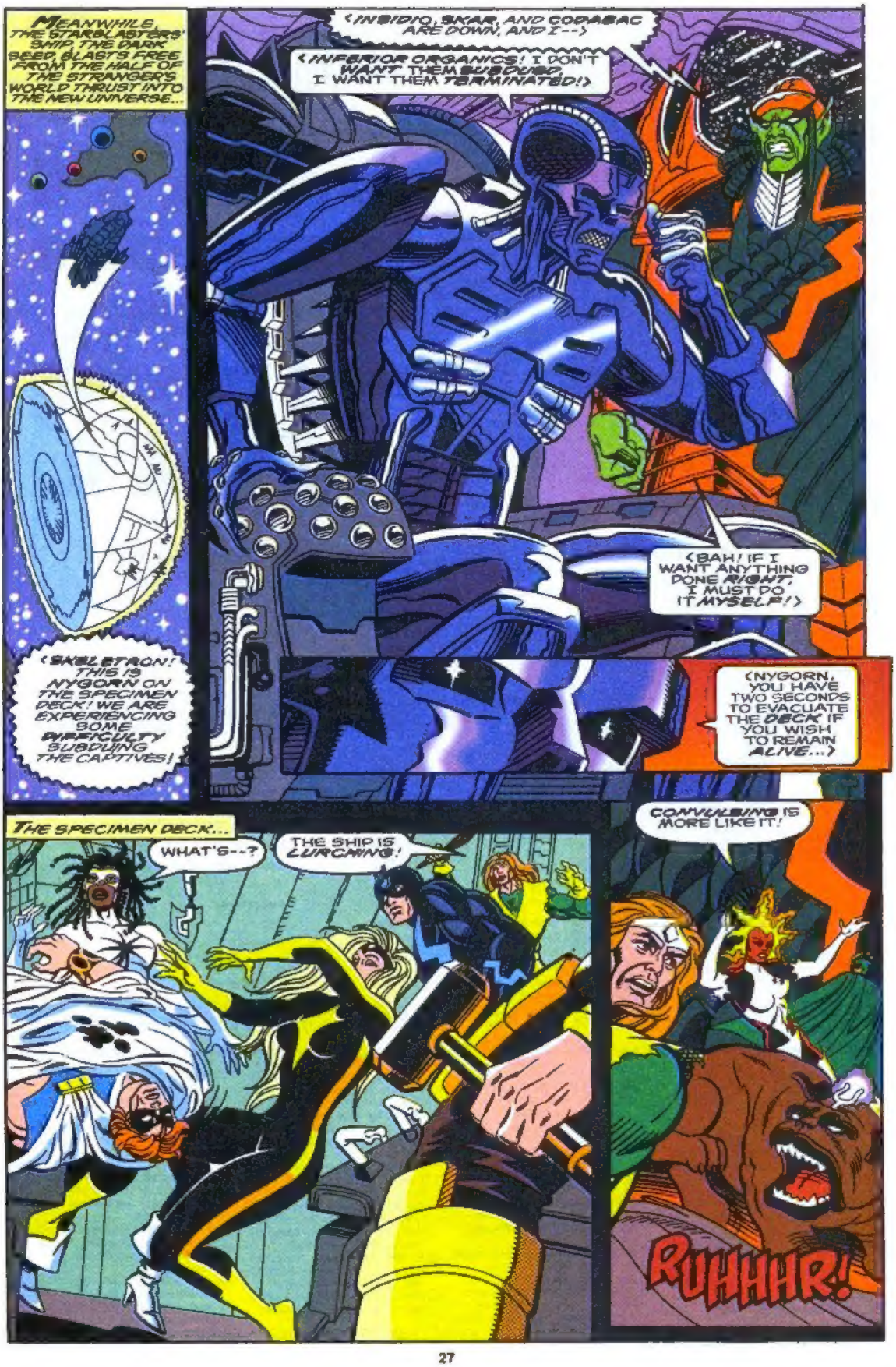

YOU MUST TELL US ABOUT THESE ALIENS, MA'AM. THEIR NUMBER. THEIR OFFENSIVE CAPACITIES--!
I'M SORRY-- I DON'T REALLY KNOW! I WAS ASLEEP MOST OF THE WAY HERE!
I AM NOT CERTAIN HOW I GOT HERE, THOUGH WHEN THIS GUY WHO LOOKED LIKE GOD WANTED TO TAKE THE BRAND FROM ME, I REMEMBER PRAYING I WAS SOMEPLACE SAFE...
THE STARBRAND HAS TELEPORTATION CAPACITIES, MOST PROBABLY.
IF THESE CREATURES ARE CLOSE ENOUGH THAT THIS WOMAN CAN TELEPORT HERE, THEY'RE WAY TOO CLOSE ALREADY.
I AM GOING TO WATCH THE SKIES!
I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU, PSI-HAWK.


HI. I CALL MYSELF METALLURGE
I WOULDN'T WORRY IF I WERE YOU. WE'VE GOT SOME PRETTY HEAVY-DUTY MUSCLE AMONG US. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING LEAVING YOURSELF HERE.
WE'LL MAKE SURE THOSE BUG EYED BADDIES NEVER GET YOU AGAIN.

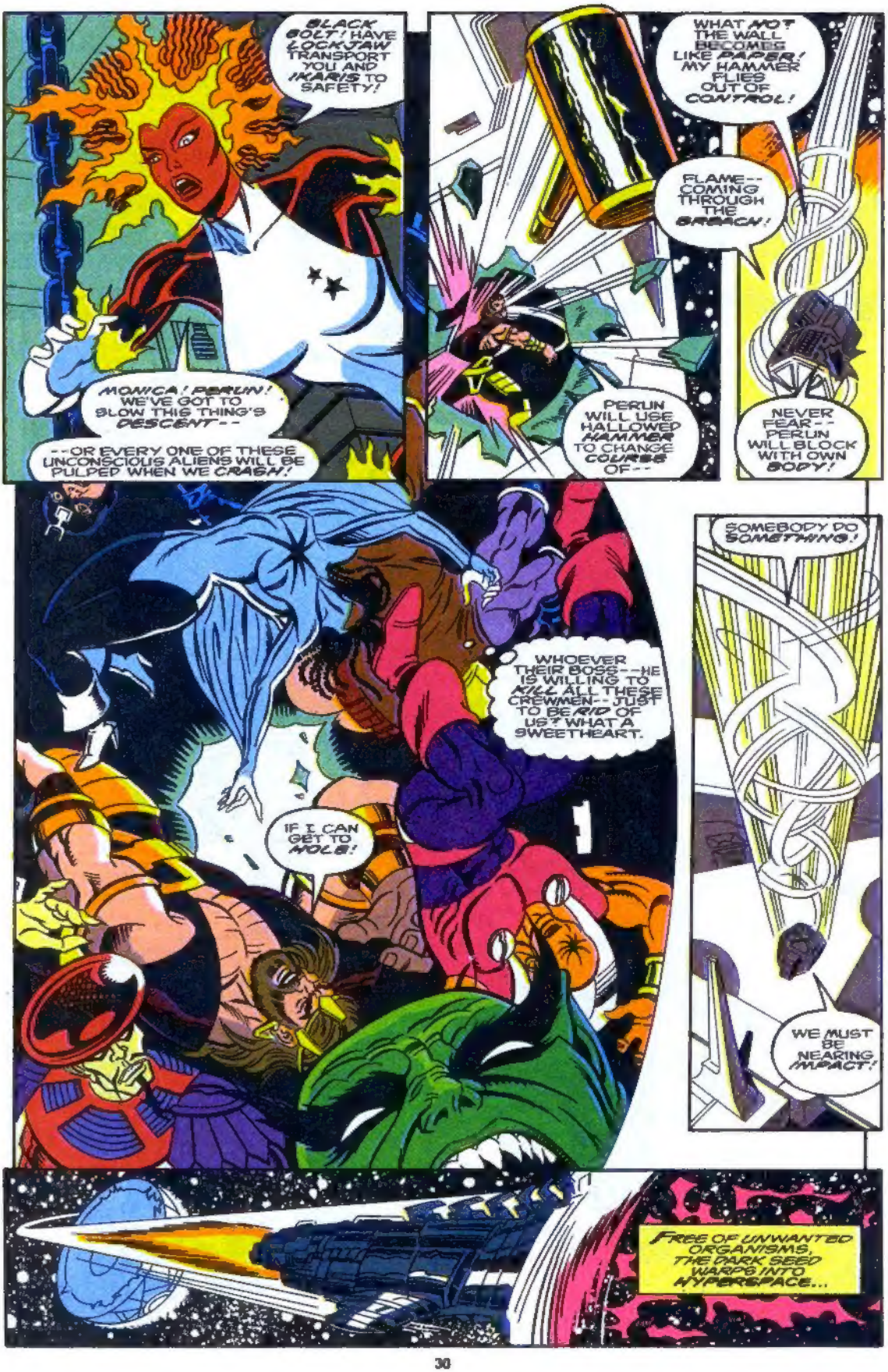

THAT'S SWEET OF YOU TO SAY, AND I KNOW YOU MEAN IT -- BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T BELIEVE YOU
ANOTHER GUY ONCE PROMISED I'D BE SAFE, AND LOOK AT ME.
I HAVE BEEN

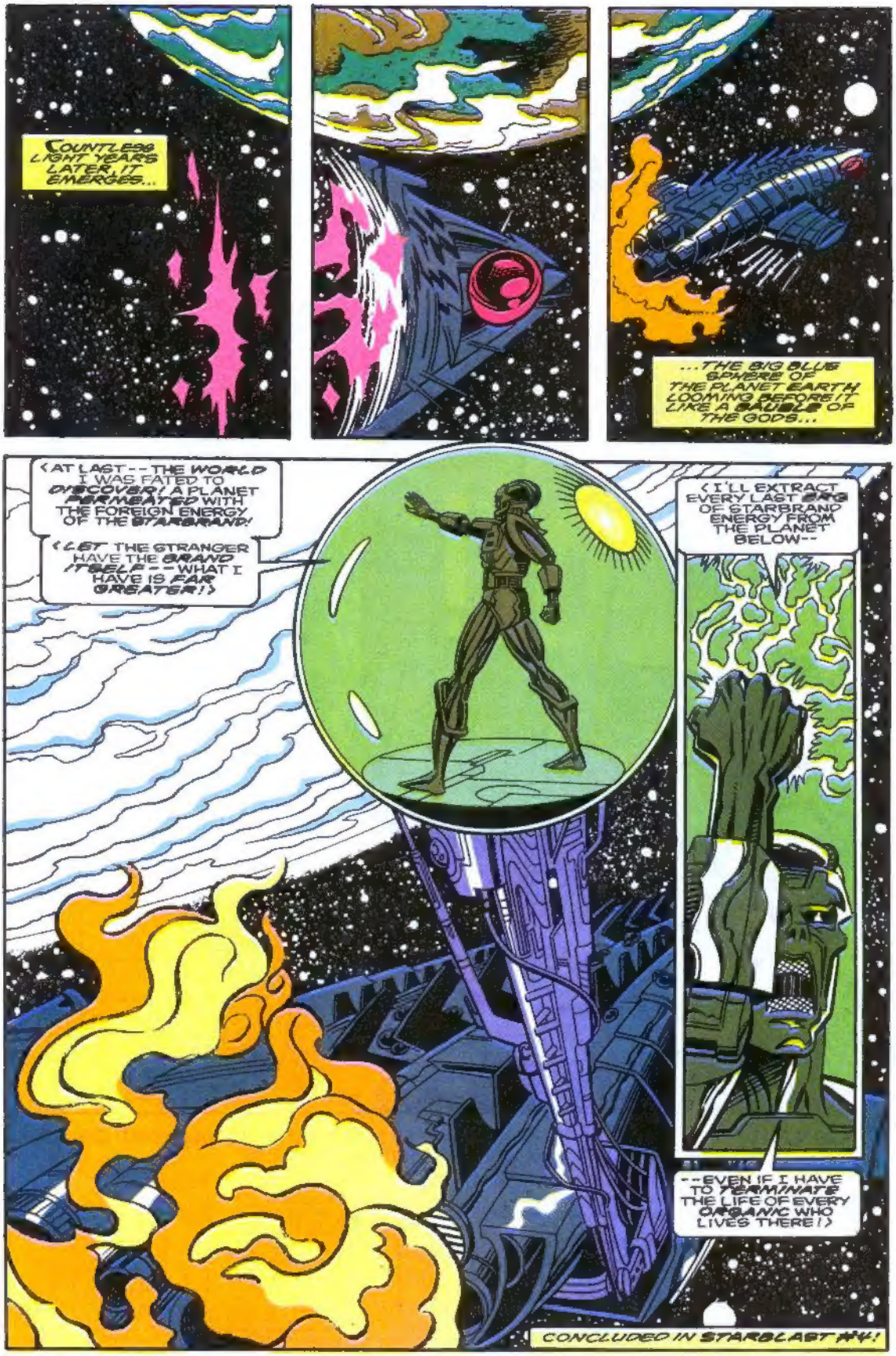
SOON...
WHOA! WHO ARE THEY?!?
I AM UNABLE TO SCAN THE CREATURE'S MIND!
OVERSHADOW! FLYING FROM THAT FLASH OF LIGHT--!
AS CURIOUS AS I AM WHO THESE TWO ARE, ALL I REALLY CARE ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS FINDING KAYLA!
A LITTLE EVASIVE MANEUVER IS IN ORDER!
BUT--!
COME NO CLOSER TO OUR WORLD TILL WE QUESTION YOU FURTHER!
IDENTIFY YOURSELF!
ARRH-- SCREAMING INSIDE MY SKULL!
QUASAR! I'M QUASAR-- NOW BACK OFF!
SORRY, BUT--

PERHAPS YOU DID NOT HEAR ME, LITTLE MAN!
OH, I HEARD YOU--
--I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY TWENTY QUESTIONS!
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--
YOUR DEMEANOR IS ARROGANT AND HOSTILE--
GIVE ME A BREAK!
YOU'LL FIND THAT I GIVE, BUT I DO NOT BREAK!
OH, CRUD-
--I'VE BEEN SUCKED INSIDE THE GUY!
YOU TAKE HIM DOWN TO THE OTHERS FOR QUESTIONING. I'LL REMAIN HERE ON WATCH!
THIS MAY BE THE FELLOW THE WOMAN SPOKE OF. THE STARBRAND TRANSMITTER.


MEANWHILE, THE STARBLASTERS' SHIP, THE DARK SEED, BLASTS FREE FROM THE HALF OF THE STRANGER'S WORLD THRUST INTO THE NEW UNIVERSE...
<SKELETRON! THIS IS NYGORN ON THE SPECIMEN DECK! WE ARE EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTY SUBDUING THE CAPTIVES!
<INSIDIO, SKAR, AND CODABAC ARE DOWN, AND I--
<INFERIOR ORGANICS! I DON'T WANT THEM SUBDUED, I WANT THEM TERMINATED!>
<BAH! IF I WANT ANYTHING DONE RIGHT, I MUST DO IT MYSELF!>
<NYGORN, YOU HAVE TWO SECONDS TO EVACUATE THE DECK IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ALIVE...>
THE SPECIMEN DECK...
WHAT'S--?
THE SHIP IS LURCHING!
CONVULSING IS MORE LIKE IT!
RUHHHR!

HEY! FEELS LIKE THE WHOLE SHIP IS SHAKING APART!
BINARY--LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M TRYING! BUT AS SOON AS I BURN A MOLE THROUGH THE HULL, IT JUST CLOSES UP AGAIN!
WHAT'S THIS SHIP MADE OUT OF ANYWAY?
ALL YOU TELEPORTERS, I'D RECOMMEND YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO BEFORE THINGS GET WORSE!
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, MIKHAIL!
ENVIRONMENT'S SHUT DOWN--IT'S GETTING HOTTER--FEEL LIKE WE'RE FALLING. I THINK WE'VE BEEN JETTISONED!
<COME! THE STRANGER AND REVENGE AWAITS!>
I'LL FIND A WAY TO BRING YOU BACK--OR DIE IN THE TRYING!


BLACK BOLT! HAVE LOCKJAW TRANSPORT YOU AND IKARIS TO SAFETY!
MONICA! PERUN! WE'VE GOT TO BLOW THIS THING'S DESCENT--
--OR EVERY ONE OF THESE UNCONSCIOUS ALIENS WILL BE PULPED WHEN WE CRASH!
WHAT NO? THE WALL BECOMES LIKE PAPER! MY HAMMER FLIES OUT OF CONTROL!
FLAME-- COMING THROUGH THE BREACH!
PERUN WILL USE HALLOWED HAMMER TO CHANGE COURSE OF--
NEVER FEAR-- PERUN WILL BLOCK WITH OWN BODY!
WHOEVER THEIR BOSS--HE IS WILLING TO KILL ALL THESE CREWMEN-- JUST TO BE RID OF US? WHAT A SWEETHEART.
IF I CAN GET TO HOLE!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
WE MUST BE NEARING IMPACT!
FREE OF UNWANTED ORGANISMS, THE DARK SEED WARPS INTO HYPERSPACE...


COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS LATER, IT EMERGES...
...THE BIG BLUE SPHERE OF THE PLANET EARTH LOOMING BEFORE IT LIKE A BAUBLE OF THE GODS...
‹AT LAST--THE WORLD I WAS FATED TO DISCOVER! A PLANET PERMEATED WITH THE FOREIGN ENERGY OF THE STARBRAND!
‹LET THE STRANGER HAVE THE BRAND ITSELF--WHAT I HAVE IS FAR GREATER!›
‹I'LL EXTRACT EVERY LAST ERG OF STARBRAND ENERGY FROM THE PLANET BELOW--
--EVEN IF I HAVE TO TERMINATE THE LIFE OF EVERY ORGANIC WHO LIVES THERE!›
CONCLUDED IN STARBLAST #4!